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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/817,364	03/22/2001	Jonathan Paul Sharp	01064	2366

7590 08/05/2004

DENNISON, SCHEINER, SCHULTZ & WAKEMAN
Suite 612
1745 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202

EXAMINER

HUTTON JR, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2179

DATE MAILED: 08/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/817,364	SHARP, JONATHAN PAUL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Doug Hutton	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

- the term "an" in Line 5 should be amended to — a — because that it appears to be a typographic error.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-13, 15-20 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ramsay et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,230,135.

Claim 1:

Ramsey discloses a method for converting an electronic document between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor

environment (see Figures 1-5; see Column 1, Line 1 through Column 10, Line 43; specifically, see Column 7, Lines 9-18), including:

- receiving input in a first of the environments specifying the electronic document (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a computer having a document in a word processing format);
- storing the electronic document in an intermediary format (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a computer having a word processor; word processors store documents in an “intermediary format” in that it converts the word processing documents to either ASCII or Unicode when storing the documents); and
- converting the electronic document from the intermediary format into a destination format adapted for use in the second of the environments (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it allows users to read a word processing document by converting the stored file into Braille),

wherein the intermediary format specifies the electronic document formatting in at least one of the environments (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that the stored documents specify how to display the documents in word processing format).

Claim 2:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 1, further including transferring the document to an apparatus adapted for operation in the second of the environments (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that the document is sent to the receiver so that the user can “read” the document).

Claim 3:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 1, further including rendering the electronic document in the second of the environments in accordance with the specified formatting (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that the receiver allows the user to “read” the document).

Claim 4:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 3, further including editing the electronic document formatting for one of the environments (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a computer having a word processor; word processors allow document formatting to be edited by users).

Claim 5:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 4, wherein editing the electronic document in one of the environments does not affect formatting of the

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rendered electronic document in the other of the environments (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it editing the document in a word processor would not affect the formatting of the document that is rendered in Braille format because the document is converted from a word processing format to a Braille format after it is edited).

Claim 6:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 1, wherein the input is received in a Braille environment from a Braille keyboard, standard keyboard or a stored computer file (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it discloses word processors with Braille keypads).

Claim 7:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 6, wherein the destination format is adapted for use in a word processor environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it discloses word processors with Braille keypads; thus, the document is created in a Braille environment and the “destination” environment is a “word processor” environment).

Claim 8:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 1, wherein the input is received in a word processor environment from a standard keyboard or a stored computer file (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation, as clearly indicated in the cited text).

Claim 9:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 8, wherein the destination format is adapted for use in a Braille environment (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation, as clearly indicated in the cited text).

Claim 10:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 7, wherein the destination format is compatible with word processing equipment to assist in creating, editing rendering and/or printing a text document (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that a “word processing” format is compatible with word processing equipment, and word processors are used to create, edit, render and print a text document).

Claim 11:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 9, wherein the destination format is compatible with Braille equipment to assist in creating, editing, rendering and/or embossing a Braille document (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it renders the document in a Braille format and discloses word processors with Braille keypads that allow a user to create, edit or render a Braille document).

Claim 12:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 9, wherein the destination format for use in a Braille environment specifies the electronic document for rendering in grade 1, 2 or computer Braille (see Column 1, Line 49 through Column 2, Line 10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18; see Column 8, Lines 46-49 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it thoroughly discusses rendering documents several different grades of Braille and it renders the document to the receiver in “computer” Braille).

Claim 13:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 7, wherein the destination format for use in a word processor environment specifies the electronic document for presentation on a word processor (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it discloses a

document in a “word processor” format that tells the computer how to properly format the document when it is displayed in the word processor).

Claim 15:

Ramsey discloses the method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic document formatting is specified by codes indicating page layout, character attributes and the like (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a word processor that specifies the document’s page formats and text formats).

Claim 16:

Ramsey discloses a method for converting an electronic document between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment (see Figures 1-5; see Column 1, Line 1 through Column 10, Line 43; specifically, see Column 2, Lines 3-10 and Column 7, Lines 9-18), including:

- receiving input specifying an electronic document from an input device operating in the Braille environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it discloses word processors with Braille keypads);
- storing the electronic document in an intermediary format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 –

the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a word processor with a Braille keypad; a word processor stores documents in an "intermediary format" in that it converts the word processing documents to either ASCII or Unicode when storing the documents; the stored document may be viewed in a word processor or "read" on the receiver; thus, the document is stored in an "intermediary format" that specifies the formats for both the Braille environment and the word processor environment);

- converting the electronic document from the intermediary format into a word processor format (see Column 2, Lines 3-10 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it displays the stored document in a word processor); and
- transferring the electronic document formatting in the word processor format to equipment operating in the word processor environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it displays the stored document in a word processor).

Claim 17:

Ramsey discloses a method for converting an electronic document between a format for use in a Braille environment and a format for use in a word processor environment (see Figures 1-5; see Column 1, Line 1 through Column 10, Line 43; specifically, see Column 2, Lines 3-10 and Column 7, Lines 9-18), including:

- receiving input specifying an electronic document from an input device operating in the word processor environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it discloses a word processor);
- storing the electronic document in an intermediary format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a word processor with a Braille keypad; a word processor stores documents in an “intermediary format” in that it converts the word processing documents to either ASCII or Unicode when storing the documents; the stored document may be viewed in a word processor or “read” on the receiver; thus, the document is stored in an “intermediary format” that specifies the formats for both the Braille environment and the word processor environment);
- converting the electronic document from the intermediary format into a Braille format (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it allows users to read a word processing document by converting the stored file into Braille); and
- transferring the electronic document formatting in the Braille format to equipment operating in the Braille environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it allows the user to “read” the stored document with the receiver),

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that discloses editing the stored document using either a word processor or a word processor having a Braille keypad; thus, the document formatting is “stored independently” to enable “independent editing” of the stored document).

Claim 18:

This claim merely recites an apparatus for performing the method of Claim 1. Thus, Ramsay discloses every element of this claim using the same rationale indicated in the above rejection for Claim 1.

Claim 19:

Ramsay discloses the apparatus of Claim 18, further including an input device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it discloses a word processor and a word processor with a Braille keypad).

Claim 20:

This claim merely recites an apparatus for performing the method of Claim 5. Thus, Ramsay discloses every element of this claim using the same rationale indicated in the above rejection for Claim 5.

Claim 22:

This claim merely recites an apparatus for performing the methods of Claims 13 and 16. Thus, Ramsay discloses every element of this claim using the same rationale indicated in the above rejections for Claims 13 and 16.

Claim 23:

This claim merely recites an apparatus for performing the methods of Claims 11 and 17. Thus, Ramsay discloses every element of this claim using the same rationale indicated in the above rejections for Claims 11 and 17.

Claims 24 and 25:

These claims merely recite an apparatus for performing the methods of Claims 12 and 15, respectively. Thus, Ramsay discloses every element of these claims using the same rationale indicated in the above rejections for Claims 12 and 15.

Claim 26:

Ramsay discloses the apparatus according to Claim 18, further including an output device for rendering the electronic document in a visual, tactile or audible manner (see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that includes the receiver).

Claim 27:

Ramsey discloses an apparatus which enables use of an electronic document in a Braille and a word processor environment (see Figures 1-5; see Column 1, Line 1 through Column 10, Line 43; specifically, see Column 2, Lines 3-10 and Column 7, Lines 9-18), including:

- at least one document input device operating in the Braille environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus (as indicated in the above rejections for Claims 6 and 16, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation);
- a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 16, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation);
- a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary format into a word processor format (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 16,

the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation) compatible for use with word processor equipment operating in the word processor environment (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 10, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation); and

- a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the word processor equipment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a word processor, which allows the user to load and edit the stored document; thus, the word processor includes a “communication device” for transferring the document between the “storage device” and the “word processor equipment”); and
- an editing device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 16, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation),

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 16, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation).

Claim 28:

Ramsey discloses an apparatus which enables use of an electronic document in a Braille and a word processor environment (see Figures 1-5; see Column 1, Line 1

through Column 10, Line 43; specifically, see Column 2, Lines 3-10 and Column 7, Lines 9-18), including:

- at least one document input device operating in the word processor environment for entering an electronic document into the apparatus (as indicated in the above rejections for Claims 8 and 17, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation);
- a storage device for storing the electronic document in an intermediary format which specifies the electronic document formatting in both the Braille environment and the word processor environment (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 17, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation);
- a translator for converting the electronic document from the intermediary format into a Braille format (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 17, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation) compatible for use with Braille equipment operating in the word processor environment (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 11, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation); and
- a communication device for transferring the document between the storage device and the Braille equipment (see Column 2, Lines 3-10; see Column 7, Lines 9-18 – the tactile communication method discloses this limitation in that it includes a word processor with a Braille keypad, which allows the user to load and edit the stored document; thus, the word processor with a Braille keypad

includes a "communication device" for transferring the document between the "storage device" and the "Braille equipment"); and

- an editing device for editing the electronic document formatting for each of the environments (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 17, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation),

wherein the document formatting for each environment is stored independently in the intermediary format to enable independent editing of the document formatting for each environment (as indicated in the above rejection for Claim 17, the tactile communication apparatus discloses this limitation).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 14 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramsay.

Claim 14:

As indicated in the above discussion, Ramsay discloses every element of Claim

1.

Ramsay fails to expressly disclose transmitting the document to another computer. However, the examiner takes Official Notice that it was well-known by one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to transfer a document, stored on one computer, to another computer for the purpose of allowing a remote computer user to view the document.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method, disclosed in Ramsay, to include transmitting the document to another computer for the purpose of allowing a remote computer user to view the document.

Claim 21:

This claim merely recites an apparatus for performing the method of Claim 14. Thus, Ramsay discloses/teaches every element of this claim using the same rationale indicated in the above rejection for Claim 14.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Breider et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,985,692; Rohen, U.S. Patent No. 5,186,629; Renzi, U.S. Patent No. 5,583,478; and Gilkes et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,580,251.

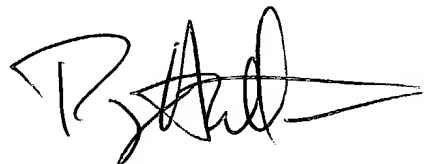
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (703) 305-1701. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (703) 308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

WDH
July 30, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Doug Hutton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**DOUG HUTTON
PATENT EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100**